



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 319**

*January Session, 2017*

House Bill No. 7001

*House of Representatives, March 30, 2017*

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through REP. HADDAD of the 54th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT MEMBERSHIP ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10a-103 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 There shall continue to be a Board of Trustees for The University of  
4 Connecticut to consist of [twenty-one] twenty-three persons, [twelve]  
5 thirteen to be appointed by the Governor, who shall reflect the state's  
6 geographic, racial and ethnic diversity; two to be elected by the  
7 university alumni; [two] three to be elected by the students enrolled at  
8 the institutions under the jurisdiction of said board; and five members  
9 ex officio. On or before July 1, 1983, the Governor shall appoint  
10 members to the board as follows: Four members for a term of two  
11 years from said date; four members for a term of four years from said  
12 date; and four members for a term of six years from said date.  
13 Thereafter, the Governor shall appoint trustees of said university to

14 succeed those appointees whose terms expire, and each trustee so  
15 appointed shall hold office for a period of six years from the first day  
16 of July in the year of his or her appointment, provided two of the  
17 trustees appointed for terms commencing July 1, 1995, and their  
18 successors shall be alumni of the university, one of the trustees  
19 appointed for a term commencing July 1, 1997, and his or her  
20 successors shall be such alumni and one of the members appointed for  
21 a term commencing July 1, 1999, and his or her successors shall be such  
22 alumni. The Commissioner of Agriculture, the Commissioner of  
23 Education, the Commissioner of Economic and Community  
24 Development and the chairperson of The University of Connecticut  
25 Health Center Board of Directors shall be, ex officio, members of the  
26 board of trustees. The Governor shall be, ex officio, president of said  
27 board. The graduates of all of the schools and colleges of said  
28 university shall, prior to September first in the odd-numbered years,  
29 elect one trustee, who shall be a graduate of the institution and who  
30 shall hold office for four years from the first day of September  
31 succeeding his or her election. Not less than two or more than four  
32 nominations for each such election shall be made by the alumni  
33 association of said university, provided no person who has served as  
34 an alumni trustee for the two full consecutive terms immediately prior  
35 to the term for which such election is to be held shall be nominated for  
36 any such election. Such election shall be conducted [by mail] prior to  
37 September first under the supervision of a canvassing board consisting  
38 of three members, one appointed by the board of trustees, one by the  
39 board of directors of the alumni association of the university and one  
40 by the president of the university. No ballot in such election, whether  
41 in paper or electronic form, shall be opened until the date by which  
42 ballots must be returned to the canvassing board. In such election, all  
43 graduates shall be entitled to vote by signed paper or electronic ballots,  
44 [which have been circulated to them by mail and which shall be  
45 returned by mail.] Vacancies occurring by death or resignation of  
46 either of such alumni trustees shall be filled for the unexpired portion  
47 of the term by special election, if such unexpired term is for more than  
48 eighteen months. When the unexpired term is eighteen months or less,

49 such vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the board of directors  
50 of said alumni association. On or before November 1, 1975, the  
51 students of The University of Connecticut shall, in such manner as the  
52 board of trustees of said university shall determine, elect two trustees,  
53 each of whom shall be enrolled as a full-time student of said university  
54 at the time of his or her election. One such [member] trustee shall be  
55 elected for a term of one year from November 1, 1975, and one for a  
56 term of two years from said date. [Prior to July first, annually, such]  
57 On or before July 1, 2018, the students of The University of Connecticut  
58 shall, in such manner as the board of trustees of said university shall  
59 determine, elect one additional trustee who shall be enrolled as a full-  
60 time undergraduate student at a school or college of the university, be  
61 elected by the undergraduate students of the schools and colleges of  
62 the university and serve a term of one year from July 1, 2018. On or  
63 before July 1, 2018, the Governor shall appoint one additional trustee  
64 who shall be enrolled as a full-time student in the School of Law, the  
65 School of Medicine, the School of Dentistry, the School of Social Work  
66 or as a graduate student of a school or college of the university and  
67 serve a term of two years from July 1, 2018. Thereafter, on or before  
68 July first in odd-numbered years, the students shall, in accordance  
69 with this section and in such manner as the board shall determine,  
70 elect [one member] two trustees of said board, [who] and on or before  
71 July first in even-numbered years, the students shall, in accordance  
72 with this section and in such manner as the board shall determine,  
73 elect one trustee of said board, which trustees shall be so enrolled at  
74 said university at the time of [his or her] their election and who shall  
75 serve for a term of two years from July first in the year of [his or her]  
76 their election. The student member elected to fill the [term] terms  
77 expiring on June 30, 2003, and June 30, 2019, and such [elected  
78 member's] trustees' successors, shall be enrolled as [a] full-time  
79 undergraduate [student] students at a school or college of the  
80 university and shall be elected by the undergraduate students of the  
81 schools and colleges of the university. The student [member] trustee  
82 elected to fill the term expiring on June 30, 2004, and such [elected  
83 member's] trustee's successors, shall be enrolled as a full-time student

84 in the School of Law, the School of Medicine, the School of Dentistry,  
85 the School of Social Work, or as a graduate student of a school or  
86 college of the university, and shall be elected by the students of the  
87 School of Law, the School of Medicine, the School of Dentistry, the  
88 School of Social Work and the graduate students of the schools and  
89 colleges of the university. The student trustee appointed by the  
90 Governor to fill the term expiring on June 30, 2020, and such trustee's  
91 successor, shall be enrolled as a full-time student in the School of Law,  
92 the School of Medicine, the School of Dentistry, the School of Social  
93 Work or as a graduate student of a school or college of the university  
94 and serve a term of two years beginning on July first of the year of  
95 their appointment. Any student member elected after July 1, 2013, or  
96 appointed after July 1, 2017, shall be enrolled as a full-time student at  
97 the time of his or her election or appointment and for the duration of  
98 his or her term of service. Any vacancies in the elected membership of  
99 said board shall, except as otherwise provided in this section, be filled  
100 by special election for the balance of the unexpired term.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	10a-103
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**HED**      *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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***OFA Fiscal Note***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

***Explanation***

The bill has no fiscal impact to the University of Connecticut. There is no fiscal impact due to increasing Board of Trustees membership because trustees are not reimbursed for their duties. There is no impact anticipated due to allowing alumni to elect their Board members using electronic methods as the university has sufficient expertise and technology to execute electronic balloting.

***The Out Years***

None

**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 7001*****AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT MEMBERSHIP ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT.*****SUMMARY**

This bill adds two additional student members to the UConn Board of Trustees (BOT): one undergraduate elected by the student body and one graduate student appointed by the governor. The bill brings the total to four student trustees on a board of 23 members. Under current law, there is one elected undergraduate trustee and one elected graduate student trustee on a board of 21.

It also allows elections for alumni trustees to be conducted using electronic ballots. Current law requires paper ballots to be circulated to alumni by mail and returned by mail. The bill eliminates the language addressing how the ballots are circulated.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**TIMING AND LENGTH OF NEW STUDENT TRUSTEES**

The new trustees will be elected or appointed, as appropriate, as follows in Table 1.

**Table 1: Additional UConn Board of Trustees Members**

<i>Type of Student</i>	<i>Method of Selection</i>	<i>Term length and start date</i>
Full-time undergraduate	Elected by undergraduate students	Initial term: one year, starting July 1, 2018  Subsequent terms: two years
Full-time graduate* student	Appointed by governor	Two years, starting July 1, 2018

<p>* In any of the following: schools of law, medicine, dentistry, social work, or as a graduate student of a school or college of the university.</p>
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Under the bill, in the odd numbered years (beginning with 2019) students will elect two undergraduate student trustees. Under current law they elect one undergraduate in odd numbered years.

The bill does not change the election of a graduate student trustee in even numbered years.

### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea    17        Nay    3        (03/15/2017)